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A City of San José Publication

Spring/Summer 2002

San José Prepared!



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San José City Council

Ron Gonzales	Mayor	277-4237
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Forrest Williams	District 2	277-4282
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David D. Cortese	District 8	277-5242
John Diquisto	District 9	277-5275
Pat Dando	District 10	277-5251

Del D. Borgsdorf 277-5849
San José City Manager

You're Invited to Meetings

The San José City Council meets at 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday, and at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The San José Redevelopment Agency meets every Tuesday following City Council meetings. All meetings are held in the Council Chambers at San José City Hall, 801 N. First St.

Meetings can also be viewed on the web at: www.ci.san-jose.ca.us or on the City's cable TV station, **Channel 37A** Stay tuned ... and stay connected.



On the Cover

Jeanne and Lou Harbor are co-coordinators of the Millpond Emergency Response Team.

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Public Safety bond measure passes easily

San José residents have once again demonstrated their unwavering commitment to our city by passing a bond measure that will pay for new fire and police facilities.

On March 5, voters overwhelmingly approved a \$159 million bond measure that will improve the City's fire, police, and paramedic response times. The measure, which required two-thirds approval, passed with 71.6 percent yes votes to 28.4 percent no votes, according to uncertified results.

This, combined with two bond measures voters approved in November 2000 to add new and improved parks and libraries, has put us on the path to a decade of investment in our community.

The public safety bond will pay for a new state-of-the-art 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center, add eight new neighborhood fire stations and upgrade 20 existing stations, and expand community policing efforts with new police facilities including a new police substation in South San José. Funds will be dedicated to capital improvement projects that will be completed over the next seven to nine years.

Record numbers using San José Public Libraries

San José Public Library's monthly circulation figure topped one million in January – an all-time high. This represents a 26.5% increase over the same month last year, and annual circulation is projected to increase 30% overall this year.

Use of materials at the City's 18 public libraries has climbed steadily since implementation of the Library Benefit Assessment District over six years ago. The increase in funding was used to strengthen collections throughout the library system and, as a result, customers now have many more items to choose from including popular best sellers, compact discs, audio tapes, videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs.

Materials alone do not explain the phenomenal increase that puts per capita usage at San José public libraries near the top when compared with other library systems in the country that serve comparable populations. High-speed cabling and Internet access have revolutionized how the library does business. Customers now have 24/7 access to the online catalog and a host of other online services. Many checkouts result from customers using remote access to the catalog and placing their own hold requests.

"We've seen requests surge from 116,025 in 1995/96 to 376,042 in 2000/01," says Circulation Manager Jeanne LoFranco. "Continuing to increase opportunities for self-service as well as remote access to information-rich databases and eBooks will be key strategies for maintaining a high level of service in the face of rising demand."

Alternative Formats Available

This publication can be made available upon request in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio-tape or computer disk. Requests can be made by calling (408) 277-4000 (Voice) or (408) 998-5299 (TTY).

Para recibir esta información en español, llame (408) 277-4000.

Xin gọi số **277-4000**
để được bản thông
tin này bằng tiếng Việt.

Neighborhood improvements taking shape

New parks. Better libraries. More places to relax, read or play. San José is making great strides. Now the dilemma is not where to go, but how to find the time to take advantage of the City's many new and improved facilities.

Our residents are already seeing improvements to local parks, libraries and community centers as a result of bond measures passed overwhelmingly by voters in November 2000.

The park and library measures are funding six new branch libraries and the expansion and renovation of 14 others, and improvements to 95 neighborhood parks, community facilities and programs throughout San José. A total of 77 library and park projects will be under way by the end of June.

Already, 16 neighborhood parks projects are under construction to renovate tot lots and youth lots and to renovate and upgrade park restrooms. Construction contracts on another 21 projects are due to be awarded by summer.

The Camden Multi-Service Community Center and the Gardner Satellite Community Center projects are also moving forward. Based on input received from the community, master plans and design agreements were approved in January.

Plans for three of the new branch libraries are progressing, as well. The Berryessa, Blossom Hill, and Tully Road branches are in the design phase. Since community input about the location, design, and construction of branch libraries is essential to creating facilities that serve the community, 12 community meetings have been held so far for these three branches.

A site for the new Tully Road branch adjacent to the



Children take part in groundbreaking at Parma Park in December.

Work in Progress

New Branch Libraries

Berryessa	in design phase
Blossom Hill	in design phase, groundbreaking scheduled for summer 2002
Tully Road	in design phase

Neighborhood parks under construction

Cahalan	River Glen	Cataldi
Playa Del Rey	Parma	Melody
Houge	Evergreen	Murdock
Graystone	Fernish	Silver Leaf
Great Oaks	Vista	
Lone Hill	Capitol	

Trail projects

Coyote Creek Trail from Los Lagos Golf Course to Kelley Park: land acquisition in process.

Guadalupe River Trail from Route 280 to Willow Street: land acquisition issues being coordinated with the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Los Gatos Creek Trail from Lincoln to Auzeais: land acquisition in process.

Saratoga Creek Trail from Route 280 to Murdock Park: preliminary design underway.

Police Department's Tully Stables has now been purchased, and groundbreaking for the Blossom Hill branch is scheduled for this summer.

To find out about project details or get project updates, visit the City's website at www.ci.san-jose.ca.us. Click on the link to Public Improvement Projects under Featured Items. Then click on Parks & Library Bond Projects Quarterly Status Report. To request a hard copy of the report, call (408) 794-1465.

It's time to see San José InFocus

Join us to learn about all this city has to offer and how you can be a part of it.

**Every Monday, Wednesday & Sunday at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.,
Friday at 7 & 9 p.m.**



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Channel 37A

Airport works to meet new security requirements

Following the attacks of September 11, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta called for a complete overhaul of security at all of our nation's airports. Measures include more passenger and baggage inspection, and security checks on airport employees.

The cost to secure the nation's airports is staggering. In San José, early estimates put the cost at more than \$100 million to meet requirements of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act that was passed last November. And that number will grow significantly as new security measures are implemented. Congress has authorized, but not yet appropriated \$1.5 billion to reimburse airports for the cost.

The federal security act outlines a number of steps to improve security. At Mineta San José International Airport, two significant milestones have already been achieved.

In January, San José's airlines met the requirement that all checked baggage be matched with a passenger. And in February, the new federal Transportation Security

Administration (TSA) relieved airlines of the management responsibility for security checkpoint screening personnel.

At airports across the country these new security procedures have resulted in longer lines. In San José, airport employees and volunteers are working hard to make traveling out of San José as easy as possible. Orange-vested ambassadors are on hand during peak travel periods to provide assistance and answer questions.

"We will do all we can to make sure passengers can fly safely, and to minimize delays that can result from more stringent security," said Director of Aviation Ralph Tonseth. "Our ultimate goal is reduce passenger waiting time to 10 minutes."

New security measures will continue to be implemented through 2003 in accordance with the federal security act. Improvements will include: better training programs, additional federal security personnel, baggage screening using explosive detection systems, the use of new technology such as biometrics and other positive identification technology, employee criminal history record

New name for Airport

San José International Airport has been renamed in honor of U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

The change recognizes Mineta's contributions to San José and the nation. Mineta served on the San José City Council from 1967 to 1971, before serving as mayor from 1971 to 1974. He was the first Asian-American to serve as mayor of a major U.S. city.

As a member of Congress from 1975 to 1995, he chaired both the Aviation Subcommittee (1981-88) and the House Public Works and Transportation Committee (1992-94). In 2000, he was appointed Secretary of Commerce by President Clinton, becoming the first Asian-American to hold a cabinet-level position. Last year, he was appointed to his current post by President Bush. Since the tragic events of September 11, Mineta has led the federal government's efforts to increase security throughout the nation's air transportation system.

The Airport's official name will now be Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport. Identification initials will remain "SJC." The change was approved by the San José City Council in November 2001.

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San José Police Department

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checks, new systems to ensure the security of all air cargo, and new screening procedures for personnel, suppliers and vendors who conduct business at the airport.

Visible and invisible changes have already resulted in improved security at Mineta San José International Airport. In the coming months, additional changes will be apparent as terminal facilities undergo construction to accommodate new screening procedures and new equipment to screen passengers and baggage.

The security act requires that all checked baggage be inspected by explosive detection systems by the end of the year. San José has two such machines already in operation, but will need at least 15 more systems to meet requirements for 100-percent screening. In the meantime, Congress has outlined different techniques for screening baggage not inspected by explosive detection systems, including manual searches, positive passenger-bag matches and canine bomb detection.

Airport employees are also subject to new security procedures. San José is using "Live Scan" fingerprinting technology for its 4,000 employees with security access. The Live Scan technology reduces processing time from three weeks to three days, compared to the old "ink and roll" method.

"Although the federal deadline for fingerprinting is December, we will achieve this goal as soon as possible because the safety and security of our passengers is our top concern," said Tonseth.

San José to roll out new recycling carts

New wheeled recycling carts will join existing garbage carts at San José homes this summer. These carts will hold all recyclables except motor oil and oil filters, eliminate the need to carry three separate yellow bins to the curb, and give a neater appearance to our neighborhoods.

Residents in apartments and condominiums will see some of the same benefits, even though most complexes won't receive individual recycling carts. Their recyclables will not need sorting and will go into large metal bins. Garbage will continue to be collected in metal dumpsters.

Deliveries of the new recycling carts will begin in July and continue through September on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood schedule.

Based on a pilot program at 10,000 households, the new recycling carts should be a big hit with San José residents. The pilot program has shown that people recycle more materials when they don't have to sort them into three or four separate containers. According to Elaine

More Information

More information will be delivered with the new carts that will provide tips on:

- what can and can't be recycled
- recycling yard trimmings
- backyard composting
- disposing of household hazardous waste
- what to do with large appliances and furniture

For more information on San José's new curbside program visit the program's website at www.sjrecycles.org or call Customer Service at (408) 277-2700.

Leung, manager of the residential recycling program, "That holds true even though we aren't adding to the kinds of materials that can be recycled."

Advances in technology since 1986, when curbside recycling began in San José, make it possible for automated equipment to sort the recyclables. After being collected at the curb, recyclables will be taken to a recovery facility and sorted before being baled and sent to processing facilities where they

will be cleaned and packaged into raw materials. Manufacturers then purchase the raw materials to create new products.

"We like to say, 'no more sorting,'" said Ellen Ryan, Deputy Director of the San José Environmental Services Department, "but you still must separate your garbage from your recyclables. Garbage is still garbage." Residents will still use existing garbage carts for garbage collection.

Reducing Flood Risk

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently recognized City efforts to reduce flood risk by improving the City's classification in the National Flood Insurance Program — a designation that will earn San José residents a new discount on their flood insurance policies.

As of October 2001, San José residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area or 100-year floodplain who were issued or renewed a flood insurance policy received a 15 percent discount on their premiums — an average annual savings of \$79 per policy and a savings for property owners Citywide of over \$634,000.

The savings are the result of an upgrade to the City's classification in the National Flood Insurance Program's community rating system. San José improved its rating from a Class 8 to a Class 7 on a 10-class scale, with 1 being the best rating. By comparison, the City of Los Angeles is currently a Class 9, while the County of Los Angeles is rated Class 8.

The City's Department of Public Works implements the Floodplain Management Program to try to reduce flood risks. Components of the program include: providing flood map information, maintaining flood data, and adopting higher regulatory standards that provide increased protection to new development. In December, the City received a commendation from FEMA for its efforts.

National Public Works Week is May 19-25

To learn more about the City's Department of Public Works, visit City Hall during National Public Works Week, when information about current projects will be on display. Public Works delivers capital projects to improve the quality of community life, and to accommodate new development in our city. The department's 485 employees provide management, architectural, engineering, environmental, landscape, construction, and inspection services for the City of San José.

Log on to the department's website at www.ci.san-jose.us/pub_wrks. Or for more information about Public Works Week, visit the website of the American Public Works Association at www.apwa.net.

San José Prepared!

Trained residents could save the day in an emergency



Nurses Alice Richardson and Carm Salinas are prepared to put their skills to work during an emergency. Posing as victim: Willa Suggs

When it comes to preparing for an emergency, Chocolate Earthquake Cake can be a great motivator. The sweet concoction looks like a baking disaster — with telltale fissures and collapsing dome — but it is actually a tasty reminder that California is earthquake-prone.

“We serve it every year, on the last Saturday before April Fool’s Day, to remind people that it’s foolish not to be prepared,” explained Lois Fiedler, a resident of the Millpond Mobile Home Park in San José.

Fiedler is a graduate of *San José Prepared!*, a volunteer program that teaches residents how to respond to emergencies and plan for large-scale disasters.

If San José were to have a serious flood, earthquake, or hazardous material spill, some neighborhoods might be isolated from emergency services for several hours — or several days. *San José Prepared!* volunteers could be lifesaving assets in such a situation. They’re trained to react and provide skilled assistance during emergencies.

Upon completing the four-part course six years ago, Fiedler quickly put her newfound knowledge to work in her own neighborhood. Thanks largely to her efforts, her neighbors know exactly what to do if an earthquake or other disaster strikes. Nearly 100 volunteers in her mobile home park are organized into emergency response teams. And every April, when *San José Prepared!* conducts a citywide earthquake drill, about half of the 362 homes in Millpond participate.

A retired psychologist, Fiedler finds an appropriate niche for every neighbor participating in the emergency plan. “I can make use of everyone’s expertise,” she said. “We have a retired deputy sheriff and at one time we had a 90-year-old man we used as a bicycle messenger.”

Fiedler developed a customized plan for the mobile home park. “The old plan we had looked good on paper, but it didn’t fall into place during the ’89 earthquake,”

she said. “I heard about the City’s training program and just thought it was something I needed to do.”

More than 1,300 residents throughout the city have completed the *San José Prepared!* program. Participants take 16 hours of classes dealing with such topics as home preparedness, fire suppression, disaster medicine, and search and rescue techniques. At the end of the training, they receive official hard hats, vests and fanny packs, which are recognizable by emergency personnel during a disaster.

In addition to four core classes, *San José Prepared!* offers optional classes, such as ham radio licensing, first aid and organizing individual neighborhoods.

Sign up for San José Prepared!

The initial class on Home Preparedness and Neighborhood Organization will be held from 6 to 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. The remaining classes (Fire Suppression, Disaster Medicine, and Search and Rescue) can be taken in any order. These four-hour classes cost \$10 each. Participants must complete all four classes to graduate.

For more information, or for a complete class schedule, contact coordinator Earl Stevens at (408) 277-4500, email, SJPrepared@ci.sj.ca.us. Or log on to the City of San José website (www.ci.san-jose.ca.us) and click on the link to *San José Prepared!*



Ham radio operator Charles Gurka is a member of the volunteer group Radio Amateurs in Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which helps City staff during emergencies. Background: Delbert Harbold and Betty Pavick-Gurka.

Lois Fiedler organized her neighbors to form an emergency response team.

“We’d like to have at least two people in every neighborhood trained in emergency preparedness by the year 2006,” said Dr. Frances Edwards-Winslow, director of the City’s Office of Emergency Services, which coordinates the program.

“Our challenge is to encourage people to sign up for the 16 hours of training even though the demands they have at home and at work might make it difficult to commit the time.”

San José has about 435 neighborhoods within its boundaries, and Edwards-Winslow says her staff is working to add

See San José Prepared, page 12

Prepared

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to 10 p.m.
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Search and
our classes
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98, or by e-
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San José

City Office in national spotlight

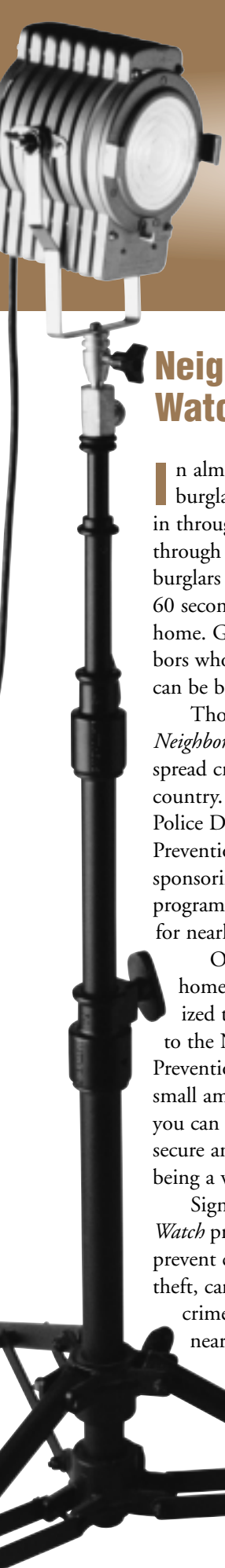
The City’s Office of Emergency Services was established in the early 1950’s as part of the national Civil Defense Program, and has since worked to boost our community’s ability to respond during a variety of disaster and emergency situations.

Typically our local concerns focus on flooding and earthquakes, but since Sept. 11, with the entire nation thinking about how to prepare for disasters, our Office of Emergency Services has landed in the spotlight. San José is being hailed as a national model and one of the U.S. cities best prepared to handle a terrorist attack.

In 1997, San José became one of the first cities in the nation to receive federal funding for specialized training in responding to terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological and chemical. The city also developed the first written terrorism response plan that

complies with the Incident Command System, the nationally recognized system for field response used by Fire Departments across the United States. San José’s plan has been used as a model by other cities throughout the country.

The Office of Emergency Services also maintains the City’s Emergency Operations Center, a central command post that is activated during emergency situations so City staff — including Fire and Police — can create a coordinated response plan quickly to save lives and prevent property damage. By using portable dispatch systems, lap tops and cell phones, the City can also achieve mobile emergency response. Emergency Services also coordinates Radio Amateurs in Civil Emergency Services (RACES), a program that uses a dedicated group of volunteer ham radio operators to augment the City’s communications capabilities during emergencies.



Spotlight on City Services

Neighborhood Watch

In almost half of all residential burglaries, thieves simply breeze in through unlocked doors or crawl through unlocked windows. Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. Good locks, and good neighbors who watch out for each other, can be big deterrents.

Those are the building blocks of *Neighborhood Watch*, the most widespread crime prevention effort in the country. The San José Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit has been sponsoring this successful program in our community for nearly 25 years.

One out of 10 homes will be burglarized this year, according to the National Crime Prevention Council. For a small amount of time and money, you can make your home more secure and reduce your chances of being a victim.

Sign up for the *Neighborhood Watch* program and learn how to prevent crimes such as burglary, auto theft, car break-ins and personal crimes that often occur in or near homes. A crime prevention specialist will discuss crime trends, recommend security meas-

ures, and offer advice on how to react to suspicious or criminal activity in your neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch meetings are scheduled on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. and last about two hours. Meetings are generally held in a private home or at a community facility. At least 10 homes must be represented. Allow three weeks advance notice when scheduling.

To schedule a meeting for your neighborhood, call to speak with a Crime Prevention Specialist, (408) 277-4133.



Books for Little Hands

When a child uses her little hands to thumb through a picture book, she's doing more than learning to read.

She's laying the foundation for future success in school and in the workplace.

Educators advise that a wide range of experiences with the printed word and spoken language — from infancy through early childhood — are the ingredients necessary to set the stage for reading mastery and academic achievement. Investing as little as 15 minutes a day engaging your child in these literacy-related activities can have far-reaching benefits.

If your children are in day care while you are at work, they can use their own "little hands" to lay the foundation for success with help from the San José Public Library's

Books for Little Hands program. The program offers four components for childcare providers:

- Classroom Book Bags — childcare providers can sign up for monthly exchange of quality picture books for classroom use;
- My Books and I — extends the classroom book bag program by sending library books home with children;
- Theme Kits — takes the classroom bag concept one step further by supplying books, puppets, music and other hands-on activities for classroom use that explore age-appropriate topics; and
- Early Literacy Education — workshops and tips for fostering reading readiness.

Start by asking your childcare provider if she or he is currently using these free services. If not, suggest they sign up by calling (408) 277-5667.

Convention and cultural facilities draw people, dollars to downtown

Over the last decade, downtown San José has become a thriving destination for local, national and international events that have been a boon to our local economy. Conventions and trade shows draw a lot of people — and those people support local businesses and help to generate revenues for the City.

Anchored in the middle of downtown are the San José



Convention and Cultural Facilities, encompassing five event venues within a single city block. These municipal facilities include the San José McEnery Convention Center, Parkside Hall, Civic Auditorium, Center for the Performing Arts and Montgomery Theater.

The San José McEnery Convention Center hosts regional, national and international conventions, trade shows and corporate events, such as Apple Worldwide Developers Conference and Semicon West. Parkside Hall and the Civic Auditorium host local trade shows, consumer shows, corporate meetings and government events. The Center for the Performing Arts and Montgomery Theater are home to many San José performing art groups, including American Musical Theatre, Opera San José, San José Children's Musical Theatre, San José

Silicon Valley Ballet and San José Symphony. Events at these five locations draw more than one million people every year.

Between July 2000 and June 2001, visitors, exhibitors and local attendees spent more than \$150 million, at local hotels, restaurants, attractions and other businesses, generating an estimated 2,800 jobs in San José, based on figures from the San José Convention & Visitors Bureau. Spending by convention delegates and visitors also generated more than \$13 million in local tax revenues that help support basic city services such as parks, libraries, and public safety.

The San José Convention and Cultural Facilities are part of the City's Conventions, Arts and Entertainment Department. To learn more about upcoming events, from musical theater or opera to high-tech trade shows, log on to the event calendar at www.sjcc.com or call the information hotline at (408) 277-3900. Or visit the website of the San José Conventions and Visitors Bureau at www.sanjose.org.

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For additional resources, visit eBranch:
www.sjpl.lib.ca.us

Volunteer for a better San José

Help clean up San José

Graffiti is on the decline in our community, thanks to a large number of dedicated volunteers and City staff who quickly respond to reports of graffiti with paint brushes in hand.

In the past three years, the Anti-Graffiti Program has helped reduce graffiti by 92 percent using fast, aggressive cleanup, combined with law enforcement. The heart of the program is the 2,400 neighborhood volunteers.

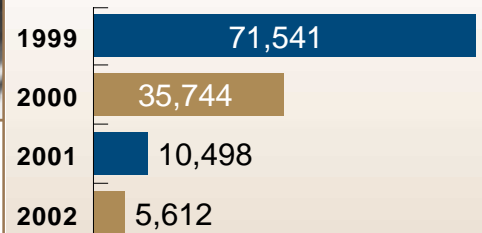
Most graffiti is cleaned up within 48 hours, except in parks, where clean up is even faster – usually within 24 hours.

Join the efforts to erase graffiti and keep San José clean. Volunteers receive training along with paint and solvent to wipe out graffiti. You can sign up as an individual or organize your neighborhood. To learn more about becoming a volunteer, call (408) 277-3208. To report graffiti, call the Anti-Graffiti Hotline, (408) 277-2758.



Wiping out graffiti

Number of Tags Citywide



* Surveys completed every year in January

California Senior Games

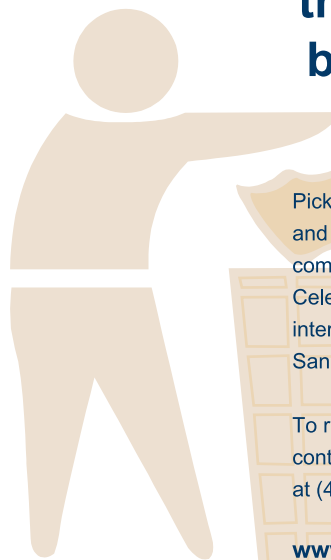
The California Senior Games are coming to San José August 2-11, 2002. You can help to make them a success by signing up as a volunteer — whatever your age, talent or resources. Volunteers are needed to referee games, provide entertainment, and assist with food service, clerical, hospitality, technology and communications.

The City's Office on Aging will host this year's State Championships for athletes 50 years and older. More than 1,500 athletes from across the state are expected to compete in over 20 events including archery, badminton, bowling, billiards, cycling, 5K and 10k races, golf, horseshoes, lawn bowling, racquetball, race walking, rugby, shuffleboard, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

At least 200 volunteers are needed. To sign up as a volunteer, or to learn how you can compete in this year's Games, call (408) 277-4101 or visit the event's website at www.sjseniorgames.com.

IT STARTS WITH YOU!

**Help make San José
the safest, cleanest
big city in America**



Pick Up San José

Pick Up San José volunteers, corporate sponsors, and government partners will be launching a community-wide clean-up as part of an Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 20. If you are interested in participating or becoming a Pick Up San José volunteer, call Rob Boyles at (408) 277-3208.

To report specific litter problems in your neighborhood, contact the City's 24/7 Customer Service Call Center at (408) 277-4000.

www.sjmayor.org



Construction Update

South Central Swim Center

The City broke ground Jan. 26 on the new South Central Swim Center at Bacchus Drive and McLaughlin Avenue. This will be the first state-of-the-art swim center opened by the City of San José in more than 30 years.

The facility will occupy a three-acre site and will include: a children's pool; a family pool with water slide; a six-lane lap pool with one-meter diving board; an enclosed children's play area; a separate picnic area for groups or special events; a pool building with office space, registration area, men's and women's locker rooms, and a small conference room; and parking for at least 40 vehicles.

The new swim center is scheduled to open this fall. For more information about the facility, contact Citywide Aquatics, (408) 371-2888.

Joint Library

Dreams of the new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library are becoming reality as installation of the building's exterior begins. The project is the first of its kind in the nation, a collaborative library between the City of San José and San José State University.

Pre-cast construction is under way. Library staffs from both the City and University are planning how best to deliver quality services. The project remains on schedule and on budget for a grand opening in the fall of 2003.

Find out how to get involved and watch the building's progress via a live webcam at www.newkinglibrary.org. For more information, or to request a presentation about the new library, contact Sharon Russell at (408) 277-8481.

West Valley Library

Construction on a new 20,000-square-foot West Valley Branch Library began in November 2001. The new branch at the same site will replace the current 6,700-square-foot building that was constructed in 1964. The current branch will remain open during construction.

The new West Valley branch will feature a meeting room, computer lab, storytelling space, silent reading areas, and group study rooms.

The project is being managed by the City's Department of Public Works and is scheduled for completion in December 2002. Move-in and construction of the parking lot will follow by Spring 2003.

Downtown Parking

Parking availability in downtown San José continues to improve as the City adds additional spaces.

The Fourth and San Fernando Garage is under construction and scheduled to open this December. The facility will contain 750 parking spaces and a rooftop banquet facility that will be home to the San José Rotary Club.

A state-of-the-art parking guidance system will also be operational in the winter of 2002 to guide motorists to available parking locations throughout the downtown area. And free parking in the South First Street area (SoFA) is now available at the Market Balbach Parking Lot, just south of the Convention Center. Park for free after 6 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends and holidays.

In addition, a new 88-space parking lot located at First and Julian recently opened on the northern edge of downtown. To find out more about parking in Downtown San José and upcoming projects, log onto www.sjdowntownparking.com.

Airport Master Plan

Following significant public outreach and comment, the San José City Council approved plans for a new Centralized Terminal for Mineta San José International Airport in November 2001.

The following improvements are now under way:

- Just south of Terminal A, an interim International Arrivals Facility is nearing completion. The 70,000-square-foot building has three aircraft gates, and will replace the modular structure south of Terminal C.
 - Runway 30 Left is being reconstructed in concrete. Nine cross-taxiways will be widened, and lighting, signage and navigation aids will be added. The runway should re-open this October.
- Roadway improvements are also

Recently Completed Projects

Canoas Park

Renovation of tot lot included adding new picnic tables with barbecues, a grass volleyball area, and planting trees, adjacent to Canoas Elementary School.

Berryessa Creek Park

Replaced existing irrigation system and turf; installed drinking fountain, adjacent to Berryessa Elementary School.

Kammerer Avenue

Improved sidewalk and street lights in front of Cesar Chavez School.

Los Paseos Park

Widened walkways and added new irrigation system, Santa Teresa Boulevard and Avenida Grande.

Fire Station 30

Completed seismic upgrades and other improvements at 454 Auzerais Ave.

Taylor Street

Installed traffic Signal at 21st Street.

Trimble Road/Guadalupe River Bridge

Widened bridge from 66 to 132 feet, including 5-foot-wide sidewalk on each side.

Foxworthy Avenue/Guadalupe River Bridge

Constructed new bridge to accommodate a four-lane roadway extension from Hillsdale Avenue to Almaden Expressway.

Meridian Avenue

Installed approximately 1,080 linear feet of eight-foot-high soundwall along east side of road between Portobello Drive and Route 85.

University Neighborhood Alley

Added new storm drains, paved alleyway and garbage pads, and constructed new alleyway entrances between Reed and South 8th streets and Margaret and South 7th streets.

continuing. Caltrans is scheduled to complete work on Route 87 on the Airport's east side in late 2003. Skyport Drive will become the new main entrance to the Airport.

Improvements will also be completed at the intersections of Airport Parkway and Airport Boulevard, and Coleman and Airport Boulevard. The City is planning improvements to the Coleman Avenue/880 interchange.

San José Prepared

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more fully trained neighborhood teams.

Although participation in *San José Prepared!* was not noticeably higher in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy, Edwards-Winslow said parents often enroll in the program as a way to prepare and protect their children from unforeseen disasters.

One graduate of *San José Prepared!* headed straight to his children's elementary school after he completed his training. Blaine Zechenelly, a business manager for IBM, finished the City's program about 18 months ago and immediately organized a response team at Hammer Elementary School in the Robertsville area of San José.

Now, all faculty and administrators are trained in the school's emergency response plan, he said, and about half have training in first aid and CPR. Several other school officials have formed a search and rescue team. Hammer Elementary also has something not normally found on the grounds of a primary school — an Ark, a 20-foot-long storage container built especially to hold emergency supplies.

Zechenelly, who is also an Emergency Medical Technician with the American Red Cross and a certified Red Cross instructor, said *San José Prepared!* is an "excellent way to train people how to be self-sufficient during an emergency."

"There won't be enough resources to go around during a major emergency, so people need to know how to take care of themselves and others until help arrives," he said. 🌅

Be Disaster Ready

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month — and a good time to prepare your home and office. The Office of Emergency Services has a number of free brochures that can help you craft an emergency plan. Many of these brochures are available in different languages as well.

- Family Emergency Plan worksheet
- Emergency Kit for Car or Office
- Self-Reliance in a Power Outage
- Helping Children Cope after an Earthquake

Download these publications from the Office's website (www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/oes/) or request them by phone, (408) 277-4595. Emergency Services staff are also available to provide brief presentations to community groups about preparing individual homes and neighborhoods for emergencies.

San José still "Safest Big City in America"

San José continues to be the safest city in America among 31 cities with populations over 500,000, according to findings by Morgan Quitno Press based on FBI crime statistics.

The Morgan Quitno Safest City Award is based on a city's rate for six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft. All cities with populations over 75,000 that reported this type of crime data to the FBI were included in the rankings. Final 2000 statistics were used to determine the rankings.

After San José, the next safest cities with populations of 500,000 or more were: Honolulu, El Paso, San Diego, Austin, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; New York, Denver, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

For more information about the Safest City awards, log on to www.morganquitno.com/safecity.htm.

